In Memory – Craig Beary

It is with great sadness that Director Sullivan announces the untimely loss of Craig Beary (Dispatcher #855), who passed away on Sunday, August 30, 2020.

Craig was born and raised in Clarion, PA, a small town north of Pittsburgh along Interstate 80. He attended Clarion University and graduated in 2009 with a B.S. in Communications. Craig was then hired by the Clarion County Department of Public Safety, where he served as a 9-1-1 dispatcher for the next 10 years. Last fall, he and his wife Mindy relocated across the state to Montgomery County. He started with the Department of Public Safety as a telecommunicator in September 2019, while Mindy went to work for the Pottstown Police Department.

Director Sullivan and the members of the Department of Public Safety extend their deepest sympathies to Craig’s family, his coworkers, and his friends.

Application Deadline Approaching for Civil Unrest Assistance

Last month, officials from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced that businesses and residents in Montgomery, Bucks, Delaware, and Philadelphia Counties in Pennsylvania and Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester Counties in New Jersey affected by civil unrest between May 30, 2020 and June 8, 2020 are eligible to apply for several types of low-interest disaster recovery loans, including Business Physical Disaster Loans, Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL), and Home Disaster Loans.

Residents and businesses can apply for assistance by visiting https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov. For one-on-one assistance with applying, call (202) 803-3307 or (470) 363-5936 Monday through Friday between 8 AM and 5 PM. Questions can also be emailed to FOCE-Help@sba.gov.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is October 6, 2020, while the deadline to return economic injury applications is May 7, 2021.

This assistance is only available for residents and businesses affected by civil unrest in late May and early June. The declaration does not provide funding for any COVID-19 or Tropical Storm Isaias-related damages.

For more information, see the September 2020 Notices.
PHL17 Morning News: Live from the Fire Academy

On Monday, September 28th, Reporter Khiree Stewart of PHL17 spent the morning at the Montgomery County Fire Academy and filmed three live segments, featuring firefighters from the Skippack Fire Company (approximately 6:45 and 7:45 AM) and the Norriton Fire Engine Company (approximately 8:45 AM) performing fire suppression training evolutions.

Scenarios for the day were as follows:
- Residential fire: L86’s crew stretched an 1 ¾” line to Side A, Division 1 and performed Vent-Enter-Search on Side B, Division 2 of the residential building.
- Commercial fire with exposures: L86 placed a ladder pipe/master stream in service to protect an exposure (Side B of the high-rise building) from a fire in the neighboring structure.
- Residential fire (vacant): E61’s crew deployed a Blitzfire/rapid attack monitor to suppress a fire on Side D, Division 2 in a vacant structure in danger of collapse.

The Department of Public Safety would like to sincerely thank the men and women of Stations 86 and 61, many of whom took time off of work to participate in this unique opportunity.


2020 Fire Prevention Week

The 2020 Fire Prevention Week runs from Sunday, October 4th through Saturday, October 10th and this year’s theme is “Serving Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!” The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reports that in terms of residential fires and injuries from fires, the kitchen is the most dangerous room in the home.

With families working and learning at home, the temptation to start dinner and then return to the computer occurs frequently. The Department of Public Safety asks that you remind your residents of the following:

Don’t give in! Never leave the stove unattended. Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — at least three feet away from your stovetop. And, be on alert. If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don’t use the stove or stovetop.

For more information about Fire Prevention Week along with a wealth of resources to help promote the campaign in your jurisdiction, visit www.fpw.org.
Montgomery County Nears Radio System Cutover

Department of Public Safety staff are working closely with Motorola to monitor their progress with the new 800 MHz radio system. At this point in time, the project is on track to allow for cut over to the new system in December 2020.

As a reminder, Motorola XTS/XTL radios **WILL NOT** work on the new system. All user radios must be the newer style Motorola APX series. If your agency has not yet purchased or procured APX radios, you must do so as soon as possible to ensure you will be able to operate on the new radio system – December 2020 is less than 10 weeks away. To purchase radios, contact Motorola Sales Representative Paul Murray at (973) 222-9422 or paul.murray@motorolasolutions.com.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motorola XTS/XTL Radios</th>
<th>Motorola APX Radios</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>obsolete after December 2020 cut over</em></td>
<td><em>for use on new system</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Operations Updates

Police Mutual Aid Radio Project

The Department of Public Safety continues to work towards radio interoperability with neighboring counties in southeastern Pennsylvania. This month, Montgomery Township Chief of Police Scott Bendig stopped by at the Emergency Operations Center to pick up a portable radio programmed with Bucks County frequencies. This will be essential for situations in which officers from both sides of the county line need to communicate quickly and effectively.

Emergency Response Guidebook Distribution

On Wednesday, September 24th, Division of Emergency Management staff distributed over 1,000 copies of the 2020 Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) to numerous Montgomery County police, fire, and EMS agencies. The ERG provides first responders with a go-to manual to help deal with hazardous materials transportation accidents during the critical first 30 minutes.

Any agency that has not yet received their allotment of 2020 ERGs should email eocwatchdesk@montcopa.org to schedule a date and time for pickup.

New Fire Academy Safety Policy Enacted

Upon arrival at the Fire Academy, all students will now be required to report to the auditorium entrance at a specific time for a temperature scan prior to each class session. Check-in times will be staggered to minimize the number of individuals occupying common spaces at any given moment.

Students will be notified of their assigned time via email prior to the first morning or evening of class. When registering, prospective students should consider that they will need to arrive at the Fire Academy several minutes earlier than the start time listed on the training schedule.

Agencies or individuals with questions should contact the Montgomery County Fire Academy at (610) 278-3500.
Class 2001 Firefighters Complete Basic Training

It took an extra four months, but the 19 members of Class 2001 wrapped up the final day of Interior Firefighter class with live-fire evolutions on Saturday, September 19th. In addition to fire suppression, the training that day included thermal dynamics, hose-line advancement, and search and rescue operations in the Burn Building.

All 19 members of the class subsequently passed their written examinations and underwent skills testing for Firefighter I certification on Saturday, September 26th.

Class 2001 had their training interrupted by the COVID-19 Pandemic shutdown in March during their Exterior Fire Fighter class, the third of the four classes required in the program. They picked up where they had left off and resumed training in July. Congratulations to Class 2001!

*Editor’s Note: The Fire Academy staff allowed the members of Class 2001 to lower their cloth masks for five seconds for their socially distant class photo.*

Department of Public Safety Personnel Changes

**John Corcoran** is the new Emergency Services Outreach Coordinator at the Montgomery County Fire Academy. John is responsible for community outreach efforts, including creating fire safety programs for community-based organizations. He will also serve as liaison to the Montgomery County Training Officers Association and assist fire companies with the development and delivery of drill-night training.

Prior to his current position, John served as the Director of Communications for Montgomery County and as Deputy Director, External Affairs at the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety. Before working for Montgomery County, John was the senior Montgomery County reporter for *The Intelligencer* with responsibility of covering countywide politics and government, criminal and civil courts, and all homicides. He has a bachelor’s degree in journalism from Temple University.

jcorcora@montcopa.org
(610) 278-3500, ext. 6633
Public Safety Training Campus
Upcoming Fire Academy Courses Announced

The Montgomery County Fire Academy is offering numerous courses this fall, including:

- **Fire Fighter I Certification Preparation** – starts October 11th
- **HazMat Operations Certification Preparation** – free to anyone who certifies for FF I within a year of the October 27th start date
- **Basic Fire Police** – starts October 10th
- **Junior Firefighter** – starts October 17th
- **Hoarding – Emergency Response Perspective** – October 26th *new course*
- **Foam Fire Fighter Basic** – October 31st
- **Scenario Based Decision Making for the Company Officer** – October 31st
- **Decision Making for Initial Company Operations** – starts October 10th *National Fire Academy Class*
- **Incident Safety Officer** – starts November 7th

To view the complete training schedule for the fall and winter, visit [https://www.montcopa.org/1006/Training-Schedule](https://www.montcopa.org/1006/Training-Schedule).

Career Opportunity

The Department of Public Safety is currently accepting applications for the position of Training Coordinator within the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division. Some of the primary responsibilities will include:

- Supervises and coordinates all activities associated with operations of all EMS training programs and the EMS Training Institute.
- Assesses the Division’s training needs and the development of a schedule to address those needs. Classes include but are not limited to EMT, Paramedic, continuing education classes, and other specialty courses.
- Manages the continuing education and certification programs for the Pennsylvania Department of Health - Bureau of EMS.

This position requires availability 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. This is an Essential Employee position. Essential employees are obligated to report to work as scheduled or remain at work during emergencies.

Motorola has notified the Department of Public Safety of an update that pertains to any agency that is purchasing UL (White Dot) batteries. These batteries, often referred to as “intrinsically safe,” are replacing the FM (Green Dot) batteries. The new UL 3100mAh battery for the APX 6000 portable is slightly thicker, does not fit in the hard-plastic holsters, and may not fit in the leather holsters.

In addition, APX 6000 radios may require a firmware update when new IMPRES 2 batteries are purchased if the radio displays LOW BATTERY after being charged. With any questions, contact Motorola Sales Representative Paul Murray at (973) 222-9422 or paul.murray@motorolasolutions.com.

For a larger version of the below image, see the September 2020 Notices.

Emergency Management Certifications Awarded

Over the past few months, several of our municipal partners were presented with their Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency certifications. Individuals involved in municipal or county emergency management in the Commonwealth can achieve certifications at three levels: basic, advanced, and professional. Each level requires the applicant to complete numerous training classes, as well as attend Department of Public Safety monthly meetings. Congratulations to the following individuals:

**PEMA Professional Level**
Andrew Duncan, Douglass Township

**PEMA Advanced Level**
Carmen Conicelli, Montgomery Township

**PEMA Basic Level**
Andrew Backlund, Montgomery Township
Scott Bendig, Montgomery Township
James Fisher, Upper Pottsgrove Township
Andrew Getka, Lower Providence Twp.
Greg Keenan, Whitemarsh Township
Daniel Schaefer, Cheltenham Township
Kenneth Schauder, Bryn Athyn Borough
Stan Turtle, Perkiomen Township
William Wiegman, Montgomery Township
EMS Agencies Equipped with New Assets

Utilizing funding from the Homeland Security Grant Program, the Department of Public Safety recently deployed bleeding control (BCON) satchels and tactical gear to a number of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies. A total of 18 squads received the BCON “quick bags,” seven of which were also provided with ballistic vests and helmets. Tactical gear was issued to EMS agencies that had previously agreed to training and response requirements.

Hospitals Receive New 800 MHz Radios

Hospitals in Montgomery County, as well as some facilities in surrounding counties often utilized by Montgomery County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies, recently received new 800 MHz radios. This joint project between the Southeastern Pennsylvania (SEPA) Health Care Coalition (HCC) and the Department of Public Safety leverages existing partnerships and will improve front line communications between hospital emergency departments, EMS agencies, and other first responders.

The funds for the project were earmarked by the SEPA HCC, from the US Department of Health and Human Services – Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health Hospital Preparedness Program.

Flu Shots Particularly Important for 2020-2021 Flu Season

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), getting a flu vaccine is more important than ever during 2020-2021 to protect yourself and the people around you from flu, and to help reduce the strain on healthcare systems responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Montgomery County Office of Public Health (OPH) will be holding drive-thru flu clinics and weekly walk-up flu clinics in October for individuals age 6 months and older who live, work, or go to school in Montgomery County. Flu shots are offered at no cost by appointment only. To make an appointment, visit www.montcopa.org/flu or call (610) 278-5145.

For more information and a list of locations, see the September 2020 Notices or visit www.montcopa.org/flu.
COVID-19 Pandemic: Key Information for First Responders

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The Department of Public Safety continues to fulfill critical need resource requests for first responder agencies during the COVID-19 crisis. As normal supply chains continue to come back online, please utilize your local procurement procedures prior to submitting resource requests. If you do have a critical PPE need, please submit all resource requests to EOCwatchdesk@montcopa.org.

Exposure Reporting Process

If you are a first responder (law enforcement, fire, EMS, or emergency management) and believe you were exposed to COVID-19 in the course of your duties, follow these steps:

1) Immediately notify your supervisor or agency infection control officer.

2) Avoid contact with others, maintain social distance (at least 6 feet), and self-monitor for symptoms (check temperature twice a day and watch for fever, cough, or shortness of breath). You will receive formal instructions to quarantine, if necessary, from the Montgomery County Office of Public Health.

3) Complete the First Responder Self-Report Form: http://episurvey.mcad911.com/EpiInfoWebSurvey/Home/a85581e8-ef39-478d-ad2c-76bbf1a44b50. This form is used to formally document the impact of COVID-19 on the community as well as document the source of a potential exposure.

4) Register to be tested. You can receive a test at any one of the 6 county-run test sites (https://data-montcopa.opendata.arcgis.com/pages/covid-testing-page), through your Primary Care Physician, or at a commercial lab.

First responders with exposure-related questions may contact EMS Field Specialist Ed Martin, Jr. (emartin@montcopa.org) or Chief Medical Officer and Regional EMS Medical Director Dr. Alvin Wang (awang@montcopa.org). With immediate concerns, call (610) 631-6500.